

■ SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

WE ENVISION...

...A Boston with an array of affordable and accessible social and recreational opportunities for older adults in conveniently located places.

WE HEARD...

- Many older Boston residents want more opportunities for recreation.
- More than 20% of all survey respondents are dissatisfied with the availability of recreational opportunities.
- Older Boston residents want more things to do in their own neighborhoods.
- More than 25% of survey respondents age 50-69 are dissatisfied with opportunities for informal sharing and interaction in their neighborhoods.



WE HEARD:

“I like having so many interesting cultural options. I like the way that Boston feels both small and large.”

- BOSTON RESIDENT

“We love living in the city and appreciate your efforts to amplify the needs of seniors, finding ways for us to be more active and involved in city life and civic engagement opportunities.”

- BOSTON RESIDENT

“The city needs to do more to make seniors aware of existing programs. Boston has a lot of programs and resources, but I do not know how to access them.”

- BOSTON RESIDENT

WE ARE...

Encouraging and Supporting Senior Programming

The City supports 17 neighborhood locations to provide ongoing senior programming, including 14 Commission grantees funded through Older Americans Act money and three City-run senior centers. We organize and implement a full calendar of over 100 events and programs a year including our annual “Older Americans Month” celebration, a calendar of events focused on Boston’s older adults throughout the month of May. As part of the Boston Aging Strong program, the Commission created and is airing an exercise series for older adults through Boston Neighborhood Network TV.

Additionally, our community centers, parks, libraries and other locations are filled with events programs and activities good for older adults and people of all ages. In libraries alone, there are over 140 offerings every month that older adults take advantage of, including computer classes, yoga, the “Never Too Late Group”, a history series and concerts.

WE WILL...

Recommendation 1:

Create and promote a network of social engagement opportunities for older adults.

- **Ⓢ Action Item A:** We will map existing opportunities for social engagement for older adults in Boston.
- **Ⓢ Action Item B:** We will identify gaps in programming by looking at current opportunities by location, offering type, targeted population(s), and accessibility.

- **Ⓛ Action Item C:** We will enhance opportunities for social engagement, both through the City and by partnering with organizations, leveraging existing resources and public spaces as well as working to fill the identified programming gaps.
- **Ⓢ Action Item D:** We will make information about the opportunities for social engagement accessible to Boston’s older adults.

KEYWORDS:

DIVERSITY IN PROGRAMMING

Boston residents are fortunate to have so many opportunities to stay engaged in activity and connected to others. We are committed to supporting programming that appeals to our diverse older adult population. It is important that opportunities for engagement span neighborhoods and offer something for everyone, whether you like the arts, cultural activities, want to stay fit and healthy or connect with others through intergenerational programs. We are committed to opportunities that are welcoming to everyone including older adults who don’t speak English, the LGBT senior population, people with dementia, or people with disabilities.

NEVER TOO LATE GROUP is one of the oldest running groups for older adults in the United States. Members enjoy a variety of cultural activities in Boston’s Central Library.

